

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Emergency Preparedness and Response (EP&R) Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2003 Interoperable Communications Equipment Grant Program

Amount: Up to \$6 million for each award

Match Requirement: 25% non-federal cost share (cash or in-kind)

Performance Period: TBD

Overview: This coordinated COPS/EP&R effort will provide funding to selected jurisdictions for demonstration projects that will explore the uses of equipment and technologies to increase interoperability among the fire service, law enforcement, and emergency medical service communities. The projects funded through this nationally competitive grant program will illustrate and encourage the acceptance of new technologies and operating methods to assist communities in achieving interoperability. Approximately 25 grants will be awarded nationwide. Two Washington jurisdictions will have the opportunity to submit applications for this competitive grant program. The breakdown is as follows:

COPS

- Largest Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) from each state and largest 50 MSAs in nation invited to apply for an interoperable communications demonstration project (approx. 77 candidates.)
- Washington State's MSA is Seattle-Bellevue-Everett. Applicant Recipient will be City of Seattle.
- City of Portland, OR and contiguous Vancouver, WA also invited to jointly apply through Oregon.

EP&R

- Each State's Governor will nominate one lead local jurisdiction to submit an application.
- Nominee should be a jurisdiction that has already made significant progress toward achieving interoperability through planning and partnerships.

Timeline:

- Governor to submit **one** nomination to EP&R by **June 13, 2003**. (Jurisdictions other than Seattle metropolitan area and Vancouver, WA as they were pre-invited to apply through COPS.)
- Nominee will receive application in June and must return completed application in July.
- Awards direct to local jurisdictions expected in August and funds must be obligated by September 30, 2003.

Eligible Activities:

- Purchasing interoperable communications equipment components for multi-disciplinary/multi-jurisdictional public safety communications projects.
- Purchase of portable gateway solutions.
- Applicants may request assistance for other technologies if the application demonstrates how the proposed technology will improve interoperability among the public safety community.

Grant Applications:

- Must demonstrate how interoperability can be achieved for the entire public safety community (multi-jurisdictional and/or multi-disciplinary participation.)
- Must demonstrate that proposal is based upon an understanding of first responder needs.

Maximum federal share for a grant award is \$6 million. Requests for less than \$6 million will be accepted. The invitation to submit an application does not guarantee grant funding.

Each agency (COPS and EP&R) will award its own funding, but both agencies will participate in coordination meetings to ensure the optimum use of limited funding while avoiding duplication of effort.